

For Immediate Release

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**Mayor, City Council, City Employees, Business and Community
Organizations Among More Than 300 Volunteers Who Cleaned Litter
During Mayor's Annual Spring Clean-up**

Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Council, city and ODOT employees and representatives from business and community organizations cleaned fast food and other litter from local freeway ramps today during KickButtColumbus 2010, the Mayor's annual spring litter cleanup. More than 300 volunteers removed hundreds of pounds of litter from 30 freeway ramps; the total pounds of litter collected will be available in the coming week.

"I am so proud of the city employees and hundreds of other volunteers who worked together today and sent a clear message that our freeway ramps are gateways to neighborhoods, not public trash cans," said Mayor Coleman. "Everyone needs to do their part to make sure fast food and other trash goes in the can, not on the land."

From 2004 to 2009, the Mayor's annual clean-up event attracted 962 volunteers who collected 50,230 pounds, or 25.1 tons, of litter and debris. Statistics from the first three years of the event, started in 2001, are not available. The 2009 clean-up featured the most volunteers, 342, and the most trash and debris collected, 13,270 pounds, or 6.6 tons, in the history of the event. Last year's event emphasized cigarette litter, with 62,494 cigarette butts cleaned from 23 freeway ramps. If placed end to end the butts would have stretched nearly a mile.

"These freeway ramps may be some of the first things visitors see when they come to Columbus," said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. "We want these first impressions of Columbus to be the best impressions of this great city."

KickButtColumbus 2010 participating business and community organizations include:

- Central Ohio Restaurant Association
- Central Ohio Transit Authority
- Columbus Chamber
- Columbus Gives Back
- Columbus Young Professionals
- Friends of St. Jude
- G & J Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company
- GENnext of United Way of Central Ohio
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Remodelors Council of the Building Industry Association

“The Central Ohio Restaurant Association is proud to be a KickButtColumbus sponsor,” said CORA Executive Director Gail A. Baker. “Keeping Columbus a beautiful, welcoming city is important to our industry, as is being a good community partner.”

“The Building Industry Association is proud to be part of the Annual KickButt Columbus,” said BIA Executive Director Jim Hilz. “This event allows members of the residential building industry to give back to the communities they live and work in.”

“Young professionals value a clean and attractive community and a place where locals have pride,” said Columbus Young Professionals Manager Robbie Banks. “KickButtColumbus provides an opportunity for young professionals to volunteer their time and energy to help keep Columbus clean while it creates a sense of ownership. I am pleased to see the involvement of many young professional organizations again this year, both as event partners and individual teams.”

The event is organized by Keep Columbus Beautiful, a program within the city’s Department of Public Service.